sanctioned to organisations directly associated with officers of the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details of procedure adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). CAPART provides financial assistance to voluntary agancies having at least three years experience after registration as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or under the corresponding State Act, or as a Trust registered under Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, for undertaking rural development projects, While considering project proposals for financial assistance, interalia, the technical feasibility and economic viablility of the project proposal and the administrative capability of the voluntary organisations are also taken into account. Also, CAPART have a system of pre-funding appraisal, close monitoring of projects through Monitors, periodical returns, etc., to ensure that the funds granted are properly utilised.

CAPART has reported that it does not have any information as to the voluntary agencies assisted by it with which officers of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment may be directly associated.

Food Processing Industries in North-Eastern Region

1643. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of food processing industries with their locations, set up in Assam in particular and the entire North-Eastern region in general;

(b) the major constraints coming in the way in setting up such industries in the region;

(c) the steps taken to overcome these impediments;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some such industries in the region during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (e). Since food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, details of the all food processing industries set up all over the country including those in Assam and North Eastern region are not maintained centrally.

Food processing industries include different segments such as fruits & vegetables processing, grain processing, meat & poultry processing, etc. The constraints faced by these industries in the North-Eastern Region inter-alia include infrastructural bottlenecks, lack of entrepreneurship in the region, high transport cost, inadequate market for value-added processed food products, inadequacy of processing variety of raw materials at reasonable prices over a longer period of time.

This Ministry does not set up any industry directly. With a view to encourage setting up/upgrading/enlarging food processing industries including that in North-Eastern region, Government have taken various steps which inter-alia include declaration of food processing industries as a high priority industry, delicensing almost all food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those reserved for small scale industries, providing fiscal reliefs, promoting domestic, foreign and NRI investments, etc. This Ministry is also operating a number of schemes which include providing assistance to State Government ogranisations, cooperative bodies, voluntary organisations, etc. for setting up or enlarging food processing facilities, development of backward linkage with farmers, marketing support, setting up of pork, poultry, meat & poultry processing facilities, setting up of cold chain, research and development in food processing, packaging and training of manpower in certain sectors.

Keeping the special difficulties in the North-Eastern region, assistance level for setting up/grading food processing industries in that region has been kept higher in our Plan schemes. Assistances have already been extended for setting up meat & poultry units in the public sector & cooperative sector units in North-Eastern region and also setting up of fruits & vegetable processing units in cooperative sector and Food Processing Training Centres in the Public and voluntary sectors.

Hyderabad Fuel Complex

1644. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nuclear Fuel Complex in Hyderabad is going ahead with its expansion planning;

(b) whether a Committee appointed by the Government in 1995 has strongly opposed it;

(c) if so, the details of objections raised by the Committee; and

(d) the reasons for ignoring the views of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.